

An Essay on  
Mucous Fever

Respectfully Submitted

To the Faculty of the  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
of  
Pennsylvania

On the first day of February  
Eighteen hundred and fifty five

By Handy Harris  
of

Massachusetts

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membranes of the whole alimen-  
-tary canal, but particularly  
of the stomach and bowels.  
The more common exciting  
causes, are depressing mental  
emotions, errors in diet, and  
exposure to cold and damp.

The following symptoms usually  
precede the attack for a consid-  
-erable period, loss of appetite,  
insipid or complete loss of taste,  
moist, slimy, white tongue,  
nausea, sensation of fullness in

the region of the Stomach, irregular stools, pale face, moderate thirst, Sleepless nights, &c. As the disease advances, vomiting of a tasteless white mucus occurs, the stomach is deranged and distressingly distended from taking the smallest quantity of food, generally the tongue which has been from the first covered with a uniform white mucous coat, is now free from mucus at the tip, and margin, and of a darkish red colour, indicating a Typhoid tendency. In the milder forms, the tongue remains white throughout the entire course of the disease, becoming dry towards

evening, in the morning disagreeable taste in the mouth, and abundant secretion of a tough mucus, from which the patient relieves himself by hawking or vomiting. When the disease extends to the bowels, there are frequent white, slimy, bilious, and undigested stools, attended by borborygmi and griping. The urine is straw coloured, turbid, and deposits a mucous sediment. Puls usually soft, weak and rather slow, slight thirst, moderate perspiration, prostration of strength, drowsiness, pressive pain in the forehead, restlessness, particu-

early at night, dullness of the eyes, indolent and morose disposition. This disease runs its course in from five to twenty one days, when judiciously treated. A gentle perspiration, a profuse discharge of straw coloured urine, and a gentle quiet sleep are favorable signs, and indicate a speedy recovery. On the other hand, the recurrence of aphthae which becomes gangrenous, or the repercussion or non appearance malarialia (a characteristic of the whole class of continued fevers,) or paralysis of the nerves supplying the abdomen, involuntary attended by meteorism, involuntary

putrid stools, and small weak, trembling puls. These with perhaps some other symptoms, indicate a fatal termination.

In the severer forms of this disease, the symptoms so nearly resemble the more advanced stages of Typhoid fever, that it is nearly or quite impossible to distinguish between the two without consulting the history of the case.

<sup>or</sup> Treatment. Prompt and effective treatment in the beginning of the disease, is of the greatest importance, by which means the course of the disease may be materially shortened, if not wholly broken up.

The following <sup>are</sup> among the  
remedies made use of in the  
earlier treatment, Puls, Nux, Ipec,  
Am, mur, Merc, Dule, Staph,

The particular indications for  
Puls. are eructations of the  
ingesta, tongue covered with  
a foul whitish mucous, and  
chilliness, with lowness of spirits  
&c, especially if the patient  
have partaken of rich fat food.  
Nux, if there be nausea, headache,  
flatulence &c, especially if the  
patient has indulged in the  
free use of wines or other  
stimulants.

Ipec. If there be nausea, anxiety,  
oppressive breathing &c.

of this disease, both in its

Am. Mus, Has the following indications,  
white mucous coat on the tongue,  
constant effort to clear the throat  
of the tenacious mucous, disagreeable  
tast in the mouth, nausea, aversion  
to food, eructation, rising of a sour,  
bitter watery fluid, with sensations  
of emptiness, hunger &c,  
Dulc, Is particularly recommen-  
ded when the attack arises  
from exposure to cold, and is  
attended by a soapy tast in the  
mouth, dryness of the tongue,  
with thirst, disinclination for  
food, and a dirty white coat  
on the tongue,

Merc, Is one of the most impor-  
tant remedies for the treatment  
of this disease, both in its

incipency and in the more  
advanced stages of the complaint,  
when there is loss of appetite, a  
white fur on the tongue, and  
covered with slime, painfull  
dryness in the throat, when in  
the act of swallowing, putrid  
tast, and offensive breath; also  
when there is nausea, with  
tearing burning pain in the  
temples, pressive aching tension  
in the region of the stomach,  
acrid fluid rising in the mouth,  
cloudy slimy urine depositing  
a sediment; irregular stools  
with frequent urging, yellow  
pale face, great debility, &c.  
The characteristic indications

are thick, dirty, slimy, coating  
on the tongue, insipid pap like,  
soapy taste in the mouth;  
longing for highly seasoned food,  
sensations of dryness in the  
mouth and throat, aphtha,  
sluggish stools, or constipation,  
or relaxed, slimy, and very offen-  
sive alvine evacuations, and  
extreme mental and physical  
depression. If the disease runs  
into the more advanced stages,  
the following medicines may  
be indicated, Sep, Lyc, Kali carb,  
Calc, Dig, Spig, Myos, Stram, Aloo,  
Rhus, Bell, Verat, Phos, Ars, Nit Ac,  
Ph Ac, Chin, and perhaps some  
others,

Diet, The diet should be  
very light, consisting princi-  
-pally of fluids prepared  
with Rice, Barley, Farina, &c,  
Cold water may be taken freely.